

Missoula Taxpayers have been excluded or ignored from the decision to build a Missoula College on the Athletic Fields. These have been renamed by the Administration as South Campus.

The original intent of the Missoula public for the "south campus" was for the property to be used as Athletic Fields into perpetuity. The fields, still used by the community, contain Dornblaser Stadium, soccer and intramural fields, a track, a golf course, hang gliding landing site, sledding hills, cross country ski terrain, and thus, are used all year long. The express purpose of the local, taxpaying donors of the land in the 1920's and 1947, upon transfer of the land to the state of Montana, was for the use and benefit of the University of Montana athletics.

Location of a New Missoula College

The Public's Choice:

From 1996 to 2004 Missoula citizens and university representatives studied nine alternative sites for consolidating the three Missoula COT campuses and for expanding existing COT programs and for adding a Hydrogen program at the COT. The "south campus" golf course site was rejected along with seven other sites in Missoula and East Missoula. The West Campus was chosen for the COT in 2004 and approved by the Governor in official documents in 2005.

The University's Unilateral Decision:

From December 2006 to June 2007, a committee of 18 University of Montana officials and local citizens studied how to develop the "south campus" in response to a request for accreditation. The purpose of the study was not to consolidate the COT campuses and expand existing COT programs. It was to develop a schematic land use plan for 50 – 100 year growth at the University of Montana. Alternative sites for expansion were never a topic for this committee. The "south campus" site for expansion of the Missoula College (then COT) was chosen without any public participation on the location.

The University of Montana is unaccountable to taxpayers:

Costly mistakes have been made by the University of Montana Administration in the development of property. The plan to build the Missoula College on the open historic athletic fields, called "south campus" will prove to be the most costly mistake to date. Over \$500,000 taxpayer dollars have been spent on the "south campus" plan, unilaterally chosen by the administration. Prior to 2005, hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars were spent in plans for the West Campus, known as the Futures Park, as a preferred location for the Missoula College.

Refer to the section entitled, "Public Participation in Site Selection for the Missoula College".

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SITE SELECTION FOR MISSOULA COLLEGE

1996-2004 - Missoula College of Technology ("COT") site selection process studied nine alternative Missoula locations for expansion and consolidation of the COT. The West Campus was preferred and selected. (See attached COT Site List).

2002-2007 - Montana Legislature approves COT "authority only" funds for expansion and consolidation of COT at West Campus as part of the "COT/Futures Plan."

May 2005 - At a Board of Regents (BOR) meeting in Missoula the public has an opportunity to express sentiment about the UM building alumni housing on the golf course. Over 6,000 citizens sign a petition, about 300 Missoula citizens testify in person for hours against developing the golf course site for alumni housing. The Board of Regents vote against the development of the golf course.

Commissioner of Higher Ed, Sheila Stearns said "she ... felt the heartburn and heartbreak of the people who did not make a secret of this issue, but had no defined process to follow."

August 2005 - OZ Architects, who were selected in open bidding in 2004, present the fully developed plan for the COT at the WEST Campus. This work was funded by a DOE grant of \$750,000. The plan contained the consolidation of the three COJT campuses, expansion of existing curriculum, and the hydrogen energy program. Three million dollars was appropriated by the U.S. Congress for future development.

(?)(?) **January 2006** - Planning for the West Campus was cancelled with no explanation.

2006-2007 - South Campus Master Plan (SCMP) Committee formed in December 2006 and publishes a Report in June 2007. COT is not mentioned in this publication and university officials have confirmed at two recent, 2012 public meetings that the "COT was not within the purview" of the SCMP. Site selection for expansion of any 2 year or 4 year programs was not discussed. Although citizens question the wisdom of developing the athletic fields because of environmental concerns, neighborhood degradation, and the violation of the original donor intent, no alternative locations were entertained.

The SCMP was not about choosing a location for expansion. It was about how to develop the athletic fields. Further, President Dennison had just stated at the 2005 Board of Regents meeting in Missoula that the Mountain Campus had room for 23,000 students (current 2012 enrollment is less than 13,000). Several of the SCMP committee members confide that their opinion was ignored, development of the site was a foregone conclusion and they did not agree with the plan as published. (See attached letter from SCMP committee member, Dean Hendrix).

May 2007 - SCMP committee members ask about an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA was not published until December of 2007, after the committee has published its report. At the time of the Board of Regents approval of the SCMP in November, the Environmental Assessment was still "In Progress." Scoping documents attached to the

EA indicate strong opposition to building on the golf course and athletic fields; particularly traffic, noise, pollution and garbage but these documents were never a part of the public aspect of the SCMP process because of their late publication. The negative comments, which are more than 50% of the comments in the Scoping document, continue to be ignored by the University administration.

May 2007 - Special Session Montana Legislature approves \$500,000 for “COT Long Range Planning, UM-Missoula - \$LRBP Capital Projects Funds – This project will provide for a schematic design for consolidating the three Missoula College of Technology campuses.” Since the West Campus Industrial Programs cannot be moved to the athletic fields, consolidation of the three campuses cannot be accomplished. The Missoula public thinks the plan is still for a West Campus consolidation which only eliminates the Hydrogen Futures curriculum. It will continue curriculum like health care services.

November 2007 – The BOR approves the SCMP in a meeting in Bozeman, MT. Missoula citizens who traveled to Bozeman to testify, were not allowed to testify, because they missed a public comment portion of the agenda. The SCMP was approved although the EA indicating strong opposition, was not included in the report. It was published in December.

December, 2007 – The Environmental Assessment for the SCMP is published and alludes to the possibility of a Missoula College building located at the golf course. Public Scoping documents from this EA show strong opposition to construction of buildings of any sort and decry any Missoula College building there without investigating alternative sites. The public participation in the EA was severely limited since the SCMP Committee had no access to the EA during its meeting process.

2008 - In 2008 the University changes the location for the expansion and consolidation of the Missoula College from its West Campus to the Athletic Fields. The public was not in any way a part of the discussion or decision of location change.

2009 and 2011 - Montana Legislature denies funding for Missoula COT.

Dec. 2011 - New UM President Royce Engstrom announces in a December, 2011 *Missoulian* article that after studying the question for a year he has decided that building the COT on the University Golf Course is a “done deal.”

2011 - 2012 – The potential destruction of the athletic fields in order to build the Missoula College building there generates the most activity of any topic in 2012 at the *Missoulian* newspaper (apart from political topics). No one expresses opposition to consolidating and expanding the Missoula College. Objections are about the location on the athletic fields and golf course.

Spring 2012 – Missoula citizens, known as Advocates for Missoula’s Future, try for over a year to meet with UM President to no avail. After a meeting with the County